

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1931

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS ET
SUBJECT: PROPOSED LETTER TO MOND RE MAAG REDUCTION

REF ADDIS ABABA 1923

1. RE PARA 2 REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF LETTER WE PROPOSE
SEND MOND AYALEW MANDEFRO FROM CHMAAG FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDER-
ATION:

QUOTE: EXCELLENCY: AS YOU AWARE THE "INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976" BECAME PART
OF UNITED STATES LAW IN JUNE 1976. INTER ALIA, IT SPECIFIED
THAT, AFTER 30 SEPTEMBER 1977, NO MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY
GROUP (MAAG) OR ORGANIZATION PERFORMING SIMILAR MILITARY
ADVISORY FUNCTIONS MAY OPERATE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY UNLESS
SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. THIS, OF COURSE,
REPRESENTED FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL INTENT TO IMPLEMENT ITS
PREVIOUSLY WELL-PUBLICIZED SENTIMENT TO REDUCE THE
NUMBERS OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL DEVOTED WORLDWIDE
TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE. A MAJOR
FACTOR BEHIND THAT INTENT HAS BEEN THE STRONG CONVICTION
THAT, AS THE HOST NATION AND MAAG JOINTLY
ACCOMPLISH THE TASK WHICH THEY ORIGINALLY UNDERTOOK,
THE SIZE OF THE MAAG SHOULD SHRINK ACCORDINGLY.

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QUOTE: SUCH REDUCTION OVER TIME HAS INDEED BEEN
THE CASE WITH MAAG ETHIOPIA, THE MOST RECENT REDUCTION
HAVING BEEN IN JULY 1975, JUST PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL.
THAT REDUCTION REFLECTED THE FINAL CESSATION OF FIELD
ADVISORY TEAMS COLLOCATED WITH DEPLOYED ELEMENTS OF
THE ETHIOPIAN AIR, NAVAL AND GROUND FORCES AND AT THE

SAME TIME, SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF MAAG'S OWN INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT STAFF.

QUOTE: PROMPTED DIRECTLY BY THE 1976 LAW, THEN, BUT IN REALITY A PART OF THIS CONTINUING PROCESS OF CONTRACTION RESULTING FROM THE DIMINISHING NEED FOR ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AND TRANSITION FROM GRANT AID TO FMS AS A MENAS OF EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION, I AM HEREBY ADVISING OF THE FURTHER PLANNED REDUCTION OF THE USMAAG. I EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS A REDUCTION, NOT AN ELIMINATION, WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR WHICH ENDS 30 SEPTEMBER. EXACT TIMING OF THE PHASED REDUCTION IS NOT YET KNOWN BUT I WILL ADVISE YOU OF SUCH DETAILS AS SOON AS THEY ARE KNOWN TO ME, TO INCLUDE THE EXACT STRENGTH FIGURES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 21 MILITARY PERSONNEL, 3 CIVILIAN CLERK/STENOGRAPHERS AND 17 ETHIOPIAN FSL EMPLOYEES.

QUOTE SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE REDUCTION, THE MAAG WILL BE REDESIGNATED A U.S. DEFENSE FIELD OFFICE (DEFO), WHICH IS THE TYPE ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL REPLACE ALL MAAGS WORLDWIDE WHERE MAJOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS REMAIN, AS IN THE CASE OF ETHIOPIA. IN COUNTRIES WHERE SMALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS REMAIN, SMALL ORGANIZATIONS KNOWN AS OFFICES OF DEFENSE COOPERATION (ODC) WILL MANAGE THE PROGRAMS; AND, IN STILL OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS MINIMAL, DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICES WILL MANAGE PROGRAMS IN ADDITION TO THEIR NORMAL DUTIES.

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QUOTE: DEFO ETHIOPIA WILL BE COMMANDED BY A COLONEL AND WILL BE TAILORED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

---MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF MAP AND FMS DELIVERY PROGRAMS
---INTRODUCTION OF NEW EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS
---PREPARATION AND TESTING OF STUDENTS PRIOR TO THEIR ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING COURSES IN THE UNITED STATES
---INTENSIFIED ADVISORY EFFORT SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT.

QUOTE: FINALLY, THE REDUCED SIZE OF THE ORGANIZATION MAKES THE PRESENT MAAG OFFICE FACILITIES CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN REQUIRED AND, AT THE SAME TIME, DICTATES RELIANCE ON AN OUTSIDE SOURCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT. THEREFORE, AS SOON AS IT REACHES ITS

APPROXIMATE FINAL PERSONNEL STRENGTH, IT IS PLANNED TO MOVE THE DEFO INTO OFFICE SPACE ON THE U.S. EMBASSY COMPOUND, WHERE IT CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING SUPPORT FACILITIES AND SERVICES. IT IS, HOWEVER, PLANNED TO RETAIN ALL OTHER PRESENT MAAG FACILITIES AS THERE IS NOT SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE THEM AT THE EMBASSY COMPOUND.

QUOTE: I, OF COURSE, WILL WELCOME ANY DISCUSSION YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE WITH ME AND MEMBERS OF THE MAAG STAFF TO CLARIFY MATTERS WHICH I MAY HAVE LEFT UNCLEAR IN THE FOREGOING. FURTHER, I REITERATE THAT I WILL ADVISE YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF THE OUTSTANDING DETAILS NOTED ABOVE.

QUOTE: I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AND GENERAL GIZAW AND YOUR RESPECTIVE STAFFS IN DEVELOPING THIS NEW ORGANIZATION INTO ONE WHICH CAN
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BETTER AND MORE DIRECTLY SERVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR ARMED FORCES. UNQUOTE
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